

## CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method for migrating data between a first database and a second database, the method comprising the steps of:

*usually  
Archiving data.  
no indication in  
body.*

determining a set of dependencies among a plurality of tables in the first database;

retrieving metadata from the first database, wherein the metadata includes definitions for tables in the first database;

reading data from tables in the first database using a plurality of read operations, wherein the read operations are structured in accordance with the retrieved metadata, and wherein the read operations are in an order indicated by the determined set of dependencies; and

writing data to the second database using a plurality of write operations, wherein the write operations are in an order indicated by the determined set of dependencies.

2. The method of claim 1 further comprising:

storing the determined set of dependencies using markup language to identify table dependencies.

3. The method of claim 1 further comprising:

storing the retrieved metadata using markup language to identify the retrieved metadata.

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4. The method of claim 1 further comprising:  
performing a predetermined modification operation on  
the data read from the tables in the first database prior  
to a write operation to the second database.
5. The method of claim 4 further comprising:  
storing the predetermined modification operation  
using markup language to identify the predetermined  
modification operation.
6. The method of claim 1 wherein the first database and  
the second database have dissimilar schemas.

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second storing means for storing the retrieved metadata using markup language to identify the retrieved metadata.

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10. The apparatus of claim 7 further comprising:  
performing means for performing a predetermined  
modification operation on the data read from the tables  
in the first database prior to a write operation to the  
second database.
11. The apparatus of claim 10 further comprising:  
third storing means for storing the predetermined  
modification operation using markup language to identify  
the predetermined modification operation.
12. The apparatus of claim 7 wherein the first database  
and the second database have dissimilar schemas.

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instructions for determining a set of dependencies  
among a plurality of tables in the first database;

instructions for reading data from tables in the first database using a plurality of read operations, wherein the read operations are structured in accordance with the retrieved metadata, and wherein the read operations are in an order indicated by the determined set of dependencies; and

14. The computer program product of claim 13 further comprising:

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16. The computer program product of claim 13 further comprising:

instructions for performing a predetermined modification operation on the data read from the tables in the first database prior to a write operation to the second database.

17. The computer program product of claim 16 further comprising:

instructions for storing the predetermined modification operation using markup language to identify the predetermined modification operation.

18. The computer program product of claim 13 wherein the first database and the second database have dissimilar schemas.

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